

Salt of the earth and light of the world



Matthew has already introduced Jesus as the light of a darkened world. Now the function of enlightening and guiding a morally confused humanity is shared with his disciples.

In the ancient world, salt was one of the most important necessities of life, especially for preserving and seasoning food. So too was light for obvious reasons. We shouldn't turn light and salt into allegories. They are just images. Both images are making this same point: Jesus' disciples have a vital role to play in the world through good deeds. When the disciples stop witnessing through their deeds, they become as useless as salt that has lost its taste or a lamp that doesn't give light.

Liturgical celebrations:

Monday – Saint Scholastica (memorial)

Scholastica was the twin sister of St. Benedict, the founder of Western monasticism, and she was the leader of a women's community likely located near Benedict's monastery at Monte Cassino. She died about 543 and was buried in Benedict's tomb, where he joined her in death soon after. She is the patron of nuns – especially Benedictines.

Friday – Saints Cyril and Methodius (memorial)

Cyril and Methodius are sometimes called the Apostles of the Slavs for their work as missionaries. The two brothers were born in Thessalonica, Greece, in the 9th century. Because they could speak Slavic language they were sent as missionaries first to what is now Ukraine, and then to Moravia. They worked to make the liturgy and Scripture available in the vernacular. And Cyril devised an alphabet which some feel is the precursor to the Cyrillic alphabet. While they encountered political opposition, they did enjoy the support of Pope Adrian II.

In 1980 Pope John Paul II declared Cyril and Methodius patrons of Europe.

World Day of the Sick



Feb. 11 is World Day of the Sick, an observation introduced by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes and is an important opportunity for those who serve in Catholic health ministry to reflect on caring for

those who are sick as well as those who provide care to them.

World Day of the Sick - Mass of Anointing

Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Vancouver for the World Day of the Sick Mass of Anointing. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, followed by a reception hosted by the Parish CWL in the Parish Hall.

This Week

Monday, February 10

7:00pm Mass

Tuesday, February 11

8:00am Mass Int Faride Garzon
10:00am Meeting Busy Hands Craft Group
7:00pm Mass +Mary Finnegan

Wednesday, February 12

8:00am Mass Int Jesusa Guzman
12:00pm Meeting Westside Deanery
3:00pm Meeting OMI and Associates
7:00pm Mass Int Jesusa Guzman
7:30pm Meeting Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

Thursday, February 13

8:00am Mass +Erlinda Rivera
7:00pm Mass

Friday, February 14

8:00am Mass +Ernestine Fronc
7:00pm Mass

Saturday, February 15

8:00am Mass
10:30am Funeral Sr. Margaret Fujisawa, S.A.
3:30pm Meeting Legion of Mary Junior Praesidium
5:00pm Mass
PTT On-line Ticket Sales Assistance
Food collection

Sunday, February 16

8:30am Meeting Legion of Mary
9:00am Mass
PTT On-line Ticket Sales Assistance
Food collection
11:00am Mass
Bapt
Bapt
PTT On-line Ticket Sales Assistance
Food collection
5:00pm Mass +Dianne Cowan
PTT On-line Ticket Sales Assistance
Food collection

OFFERTORY

We are grateful for these gifts

Sunday Envelopes: \$9,956.00

Loose: \$428.70

MARRIED IN CHRIST

Ivy Jane Ellen Smith
&
Enrico Antonio Fionda

REST IN PEACE

Sister Margaret C. Fujisawa, S.A.
Harold Christian Knutson

Pope's Message

"My eyes have seen your salvation" (Lk 2:30). These are the words of Simeon, whom the Gospel presents as a simple man: "righteous and devout", says the text (v. 25). But among all at the temple that day, he alone saw Jesus as the Saviour. What did he see? A child: a small, vulnerable, simple

child. But in him he saw salvation, for the Holy Spirit allowed him to recognize in that tender newborn "the Lord's Christ" (v. 26). Taking him in his arms, he sensed by faith that in him God was bringing his promises to fulfillment. And that he, Simeon, could now go in peace: he had seen the grace that was worth more than life (cf. Ps 63:4), and there was nothing further to wait for.

You too, dear consecrated brothers and sisters, you are simple men and women who caught sight of the treasure worth more than any worldly good. And so you left behind precious things, such as possessions, such as making a family for yourselves. Why did you do this? Because you fell in love with Jesus, you saw everything in him, and enraptured by his gaze, you left the rest behind. Religious life is this *vision*. It means seeing what really matters in life. It means welcoming the Lord's gift with open arms, as Simeon did. This is what the eyes of consecrated men and women behold: the grace of God poured into their hands. The consecrated person is one who every day looks at himself or herself and says: "Everything is gift, all is grace". Dear brothers and sisters, we did not deserve religious life; it is a gift of love that we have received.

My eyes have seen your salvation. These are the words we repeat each evening at Night Prayer. With them, we bring our day to an end, saying: "Lord, my salvation comes from you, my hands are not empty, but are full of your grace". *Knowing how to see grace* is the starting point. Looking back, re-reading one's own history and seeing there God's faithful gift: not only in life's grand moments, but also in our fragility and weakness, in our insignificance. The tempter, the devil focuses on our "poverty", our empty hands:

"In all these years you haven't got any better, you haven't achieved what you could have, they haven't let you do what you were meant to do, you haven't always been faithful, you are not capable..." and so on. Each of us knows this story and these words very well. We see this is true in part, and so we go back to thoughts and feelings that disorient us. Thus we risk losing our bearings, the gratuitous love of God. For God loves us always, and gives himself to us, even in our poverty. Saint Jerome offered much to the Lord and the Lord asked for more.

He said to the Lord: "But Lord, I have given you everything, everything, what else is lacking?" "Your sins, your poverty, offer me your poverty". When we keep our gaze fixed on him, we open ourselves to his forgiveness that renews us, and we are reassured by his faithfulness. We can ask ourselves today: "To whom do I turn my gaze: to the Lord, or to myself?" Whoever experiences God's grace above all else can discover the antidote to distrust and to looking at things in a worldly way.

There is a temptation that looms over religious life: seeing things in a worldly way. This entails no longer seeing God's grace as the driving force in life, then going off in search of something to substitute for it: a bit of fame, a consoling affection, finally getting to do what I want. But when a consecrated life no longer revolves around God's grace, it turns in upon itself. It loses its passion, it grows slack, becomes stagnant. And we know what happens then: we start to demand our own space, our own rights, we let ourselves get dragged into gossip and slander, we take offence at every small thing that does not go our way, and we pour forth litanies of lamentation – lamentation, "Father Lamentation", "Sister Lamentation" – about our brothers, our sisters, our communities, the Church, society. We no longer see the Lord in everything, but only the dynamics of the world, and our hearts grow numb. Then we become creatures of habit, pragmatic, while inside us sadness and distrust grow, that turn into resignation. This is what a worldly gaze leads to. The Great Saint Teresa once said to the sisters: "woe to the sister who repeats these words, 'they have treated me unjustly', woe to her!"

To have the right kind of view on life, we ask to be able to perceive God's grace for us, like Simeon. The Gospel says three times that he was intimately familiar with the Holy Spirit, who was upon him, inspired him, roused him (cf. v. 25-27). He was intimately familiar with the Holy Spirit, with the love of God. If consecrated life remains steadfast in love for the Lord, it perceives beauty. It sees that poverty is not some colossal effort, but rather a higher freedom that God gives to us and others as real wealth. It sees that chastity is not austere sterility, but the way to love without possessing. It sees that obedience is not a discipline, but is victory over our own chaos, in the way of Jesus. In one of the regions affected by earthquake in Italy – speaking of poverty and community life – there was a Benedictine monastery that was destroyed and another monastery that invited the Sisters to come and stay with them. But they were only there for a short while: they were not happy, they were thinking about their monastery, about the people there. In the end, they decided to go back to their monastery, which is now two caravans. Instead of staying in this big, comfortable monastery; they were like flies there, all of them together, but happy in their poverty. This happened just last year. It is a beautiful thing!

WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH

St. Augustine's Oblate Parish is a Catholic community centered in Christ and the Eucharist that has a shared mission to – welcome and invite all to participate – celebrate in Word and Sacrament – foster evangelization and spiritual formation – advocate for social justice – care for our common home.

Ash Wednesday Palms



We will be collecting last year's palms starting today until Sunday February 23rd. Palms from last year may be placed in the basket in the Church foyer. In the Catholic tradition, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are remnants of the palm leaves distributed from the prior year on Palm Sunday.

Catholics keep the palm leaves throughout the year and return them to the Church before Ash Wednesday of the next year. The leaves are then turned into ashes for use in the Ash Wednesday services. During the service, the parishioners proceed to the front of the Church and the ashes are placed on each person's forehead in the shape of a cross. The ashes are not to be washed off but are to remain on the forehead throughout the day of Ash Wednesday.

UNDERSTAND MORE FULLY
THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION IN

Romans

AN 8-PART BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study begins March 10th at St. Augustines

Join St. Augustine's Adult Faith Group to study St. Paul's letter to the Romans. In this 8 session study we will learn that salvation is not merely the removal of a guilty verdict; it is about entering into Christ's life, death, and resurrection and sharing in his divine life. In Jesus Christ all the hopes and expectations of Israel are fulfilled, leading to the universal ("catholic") family of God. We invite you to join us in the parish hall on Tuesday evenings 7:30-9 PM starting March 10. Cost of \$40 for study guide (financial assistance available). Registration is required - email biblestudies@staugustineschurch.ca

We hope you will join us!

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library with video and ebooks for adults and children! Find comprehensive and inspiring content. Share with your friends and family! Simply sign up for FREE by visiting **formed.org** and entering our Parish access code **4FX3T6**. You may then create your personal account.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

"For I was hungry and you gave me food." Matthew 25:35



School News...

20th ANNIVERSARY PASS THE TORCH EVENT



Saturday
April 25, 2020
5:30pm

Le Gala en Blanc

FUNDRAISING DINNER





Pass the Torch Gala Tickets on Sale!!

Le Gala en Blanc, the annual Pass the Torch Gala for St. Augustine's School, will be held on Saturday, April 25th, 2020 at the Hellenic Centre. It will be a magical evening of celebration, friendship, food and dancing with all proceeds going towards finishing our beautiful school.

Parishioners of St. Augustine's Church have been so generous, and their support and prayers have been integral in getting our school to where it is today. For this reason, we have reserved 50 tickets **exclusively** for Non-School Parishioners. These tickets may be purchased between February 15th -23rd. School families (as well as all Parishioners) will be eligible to purchase their tickets from February 24th onwards.

Parent volunteers will be available after masses on **February 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd** to assist Non-School Parishioners with the online ticketing process as needed. The ticketing website is: www.passthetorchgala.com.

We hope to see many of you on April 25th dressed in your most elegant white attire!!

Around the Archdiocese...

Movie—Unplanned

The movie Unplanned (based on the book by Abbie Johnston) will be shown at St. Anthony's Parish (Marpole) on Saturday, February 15th at 1 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m.

The movie will be shown again at Corpus Christi Parish (48th and Nanaimo Streets) on Saturday, February 22nd at 10 a.m.

There will be a Talk and Discussion afterward.

'Jesus with us in our suffering'

Fr. David May, Madonna House priest will present how the suffering can transform our lives in Christ. There will also be a time of silent reflection; followed by fellowship, sharing.

When: Sunday, February 16th from 2pm to 4:30pm.

Where: St. John the Apostle Parish Hall (5457 Trafalgar St, Vancouver)

More info: Madonna House, 604-267-1757 or madonna02@shaw.ca

2020 Homeless Count

The 2020 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver will take place on the night of Tuesday, March 3 and throughout the day on Wednesday, March 5. Governments, funders and community agencies rely on data from homeless counts to help make informed policy and program decisions. As in previous years, the goals of the 2020 Homeless Count are to obtain a reliable estimate on the number of people experiencing homelessness, to obtain a demographic profile of those individuals through the count survey, and to identify long-term data trends of homelessness in the region.

We need your help! We are now accepting applications to volunteer for the 2020 Homeless Count. The count is only made possible through the help of volunteers. Over 1200 volunteers participated in the last Metro Vancouver-wide count in 2017, and we need your support to make the 2020 count a success.

If you would like to volunteer in any of the communities participating in the count, please fill in this volunteer application form at

www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/initiatives/2020-homeless-count

Oblate Corner - Theresa of Lisieux and the conversion of the Inuit

Fathers Arsène Turquetil and Armand Le Blanc were the first Oblates of Mary Immaculate to settle amidst the Inuit of Hudson Bay. They arrived at Chesterfield Inlet on September 3, 1912. They began to work immediately, since everything had to be done: finding an adequate location, building a house-chapel, learning the language, and adapting to the customs of the land. On Pentecost Sunday, 1915, Father Turquetil was able to offer his first sermon in the Inuit language before a small gathering, that had come out of curiosity.

However, conversions were not forthcoming. Paganism, superstition, mockery, and especially the devil's wiles had to be overcome. To top everything, that same year it was learned that Fathers Rouvière and Leroux had been murdered by the Inuit of Mackenzie. Friends advised the Oblates to close this northern mission. But nevertheless, their bishop Ovide Charlebois, OMI, of Keewatin was hesitant. He granted Father Turquetil one year of respite.

Soil from Lisieux

In the Autumn of 1916, an Inuit brought to Father Turquetil two envelopes addressed to him, but of strangely unknown origin. The first one contained a booklet: La Petite Fleur de Lisieux (The Little Flower of Lisieux). The Oblate had never heard of this Carmelite nun, from his own native diocese. The booklet tells that she prayed for missionaries and that she promised to spend her heaven doing good things for the earth. Could she possibly bring about the conversion of the Inuit? The second envelope contained a bit of soil, along with this inion: "Soil taken from under the first coffin of the Little Flower of Lisieux. With this she performs miracles."

Before going to bed that night, the priest and his new companion, Brother Prime Girard, prayed fervently to Theresa, even though she was not yet canonized. On the next day, while Father sat at the harmonium, and a few Inuit came around. Brother Girard approached behind them and secretly dropped one or two grains of this soil in their long thick hair.

The grand miracle of little Theresa

On the following Sunday, at the sound of the bell, the Inuit arrived, without harpoon or rifle. One was the spokesman: "We knew that you were speaking the truth, but we didn't want to listen. Right now, our sins frighten us. Could you remove them?" Father Turquetil answered: "Yes. Come in and I'll explain it to you." His sermon was on Baptism, and all the while his thought was with the Little Flower: "Theresa, you made this possible... keep on inspiring them, and guide them towards Baptism." That night, Tuni, the oldest one, came to the Father: "We are three who want to be baptized, with our wives and children." "Fine," answered the Oblate, "but first I must instruct you. This could take time. And you will be leaving soon and will not be returning before Christmas, maybe?" "Well no! We will not be hunting, we'll stay here to be instructed and baptized." "How will you nourish yourselves?" Tuni answered: "It's very simple, the one you call Our Father, he loves us... he will help us, we will not die of hunger and we will be baptized" They then agreed that the catechumenate would begin on the following day, for two hours each day.

For the next eight and a half months, all of them persevered faithfully. On July 2, 1917, this date must be remembered, Father Turquetil had the joy of baptizing his first Inuits. It was a grand day for him and for the Oblate missions of the Far North. No longer was it a matter of closing this mission. Saint Theresa had saved it.

Bishop Charlebois was so impressed that he sent a request to Rome, signed by 226 missionary bishops from all over the world, asking for the grace to declare Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus patroness of all the missions in the world. In 1927, Pope Pius XI responded favorably to this request.

If you are new to our Parish Community or have an address or telephone change, please fill out the information below and submit it to the parish office or drop into the collection basket. please print in block letters.	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Parishioner <input type="checkbox"/> Need Envelopes <input type="checkbox"/> Information Change	
First Name	First Name
Spouse First Name	Spouse Last Name
Children: Name(s) & Date of Birth	
Mailing Address	
City	Phone
Postal Code	Email
Comments	

Parish Information**PASTOR**

Rev. Andrzej Stendzina, OMI 604.736.4455 x 227
astendzina@rcav.org

PARISH OFFICE

Monday & Friday 9:00am-12noon, 1:00pm-5:00pm
Tues/Wed/Thurs 10:00am-12noon, 1:00pm-5:00pm
Monday is the Priest's day off.

Email: parish.saug@rcav.org

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Linda Arnold 604.736.4455 x 229

PARISH SECRETARY

Jayne Le Vierge 604.736.4455 x 221

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM—PREP

Ferial Khan 604.736.4455 x 224
prep@staugustineschurch.ca

FAITH AND FOUNDATION

Campaign Office 604.736.4455 x 231
donate@faithandfoundation.com

ST AUGUSTINE SCHOOL

2154 West 7th Avenue V6K 0E3 604.731.8024
office@staugschool.ca

BAPTISM - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

604.736.4455 x 221 604.736.4455 x 221

MARRIAGES/WEDDINGS

604.736.4455 x 221 parish.saug@rcav.org

RECONCILIATION

Weekdays 15 minutes before weekday Mass
Saturday 4:00pm—4:30pm

PARISH MINISTRIES**RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)**

Linda Arnold rcia@staugustineschurch.ca

MUSIC MINISTRY

Peter Allen 604.257.3525
Manfred & Suzanne Milbers 604.255.0567
Mary Ellen Turnbull 778.995.6423

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Nelson Cheung 604.328.3882

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sonny Harsono em@staugustineschurch.ca

PARISH COUNCIL

Peggy Ho Yuen 604.266.1803

CWL (CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE)

Samantha Strudwick 604.255.1662

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LEGION OF MARY

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